



1.0 Parks and Recreation Facilities



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

The purpose of this section is to understand current recreation opportunities in and around the City, with the understanding that there is a need for additional recreation facilities. Presently, City of Surprise residents have access to a broad range of recreation opportunities and facilities outside the City. These resources complement those already provided within the City and are briefly described below. Parks and recreation facilities located within the City of Surprise are both publicly and privately owned. These facilities are described in this section and are listed in **Table 2** and general locations illustrated in **Figures 2, 3 and 4**.

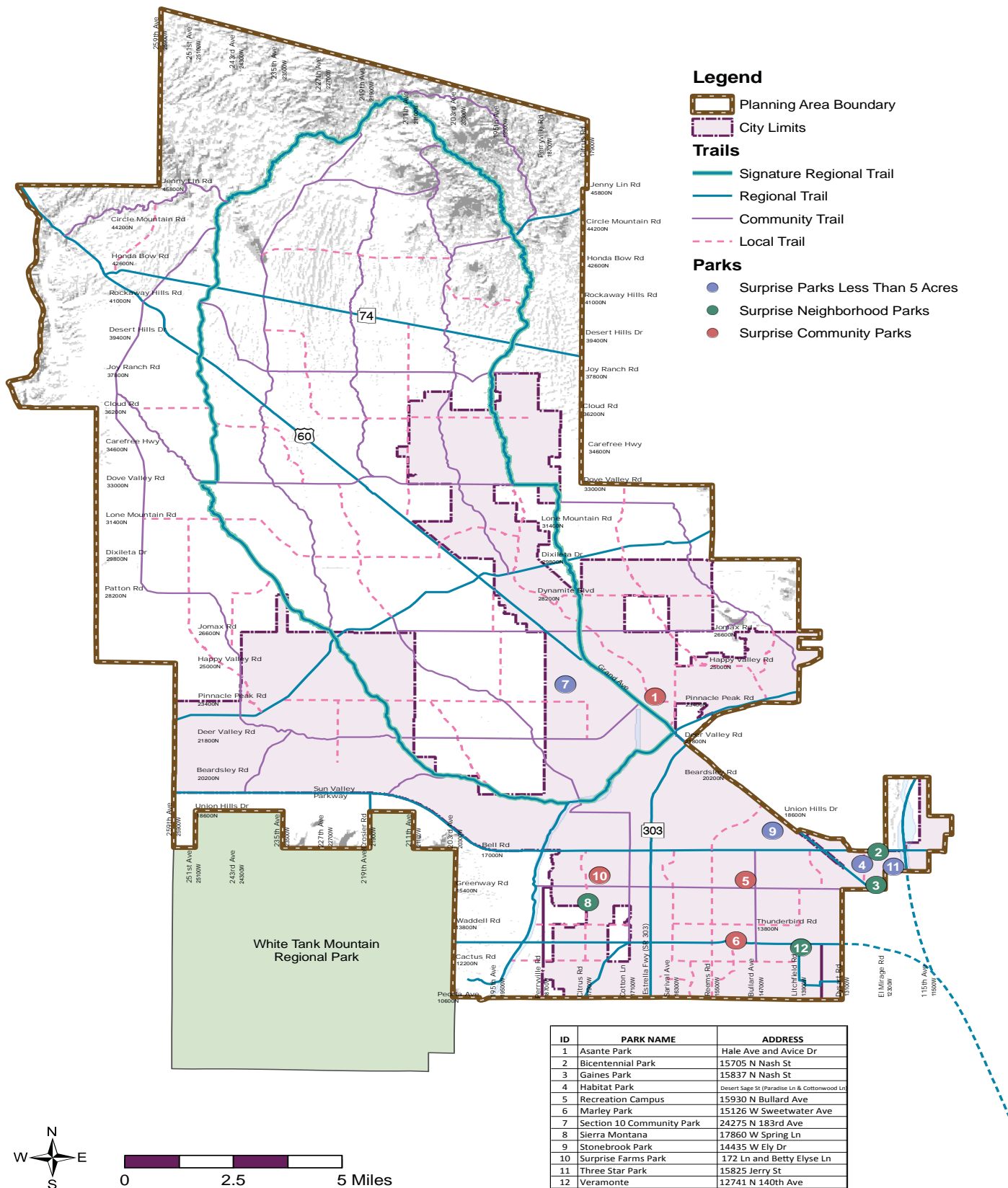
Section 1.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

1.1 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Table 2
Park Planning and Siting

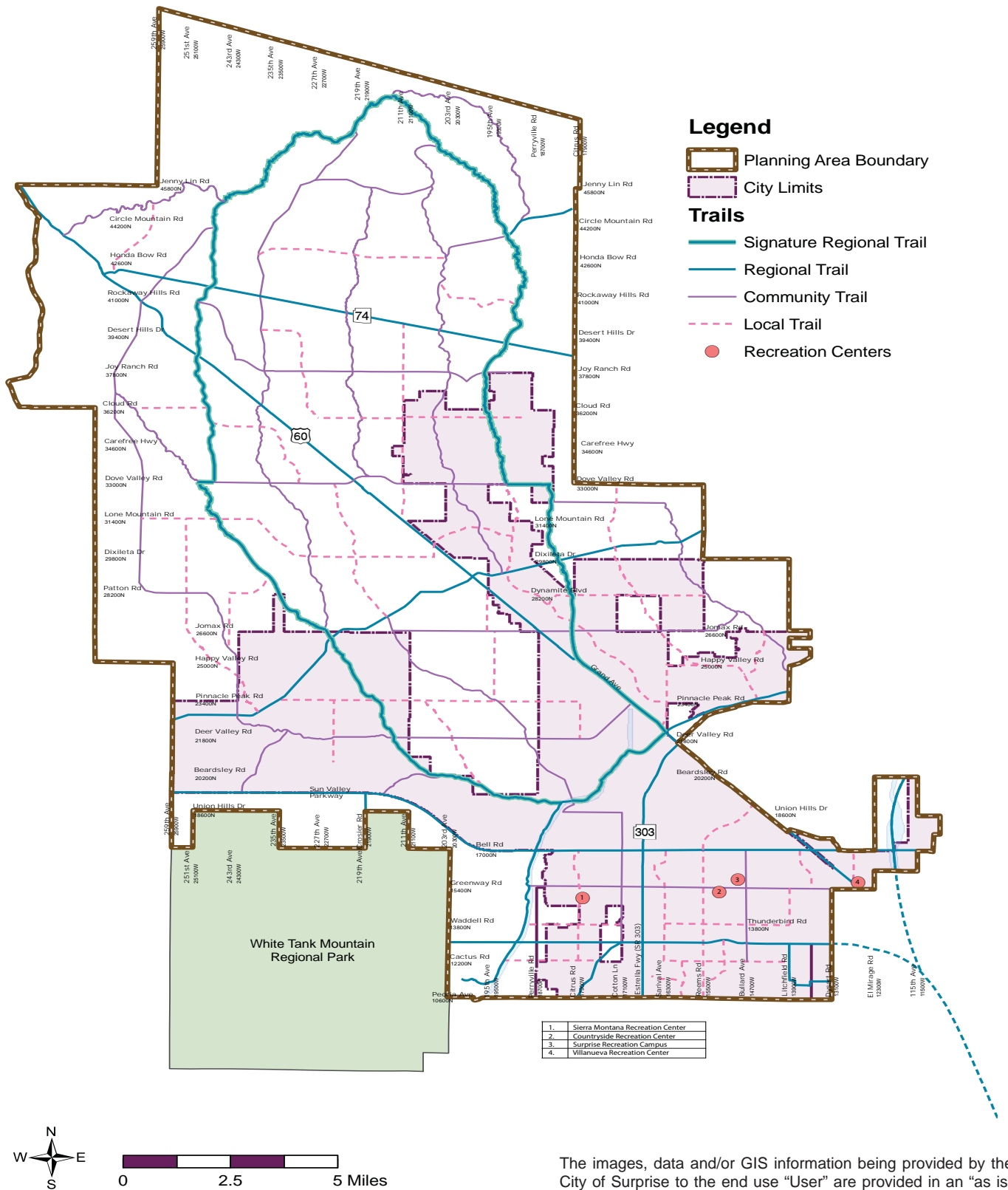
Table 2: Inventory of Existing Parks, Recreation Centers, Libraries and Cultural Facilities

Parks less than 5-acres	Size	Location
Section 10 Park	1 acre	24275 N. 183 rd Avenue
Stonebrook Park	3.2 acres	14435 W. Ely Drive
Three Star Park	1.2 acres	15825 N. Jerry Street
Habitat for Humanity Park	0.5 acres	Desert Sage St. Btw Paradise Ln. and Cottonwood Ln.
Neighborhood Parks		
Bicentennial Park	7 acres	15705 N. Nash Street
Gaines Park	5 acres	15705 N. Nash Street
Sierra Montaña Park	13.5 acres	17680 W. Spring Lane
Veramonte	8.5 acres	112741 N. 140 th Avenue
Community Parks		
Marley Park Community Park	25 acres	15126 W. Sweetwater
Surprise Community Park	195 acres	15953 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise Farms Community Park (Under Development)	57 acres	S. of Surprise Farms Lp Rd. Btw 172 Ln and Betty Elyse Ln.
Asante Community Park (Under Development)	50 acres	Between Hale Ave and Avice Dr.
Recreation Centers		
Countryside Recreation Center		15038 N. Parkview Place
Sierra Montaña Recreation Center		14861 N. Spring Lane
Villanueva Recreation Center		15660 N. Hollyhock Street
Surprise Recreation Campus		15950 N. Bullard Avenue
Municipal Pools		
Surprise Aquatic Center		15831 N. Bullard Avenue
Hollyhock Community Pool		15808 N. Hollyhock Street
Libraries		
Hollyhock Branch Library		15844 N. Hollyhock Street
Surprise Regional Library		16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Cultural Facilities		
The Heard Museum		16126 N. Civic Center Plaza
West Valley Art Museum		17420 N. Avenue of the Arts



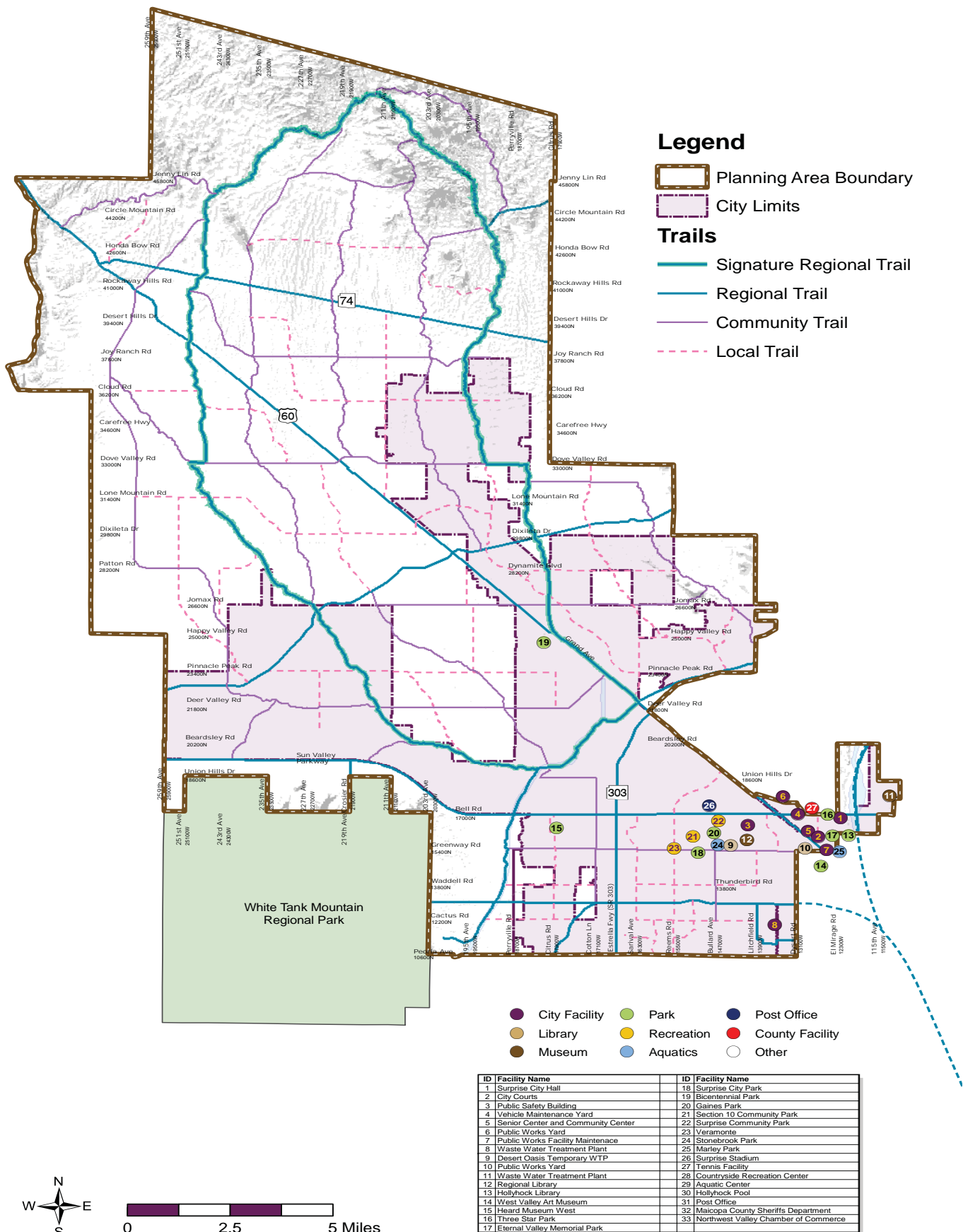
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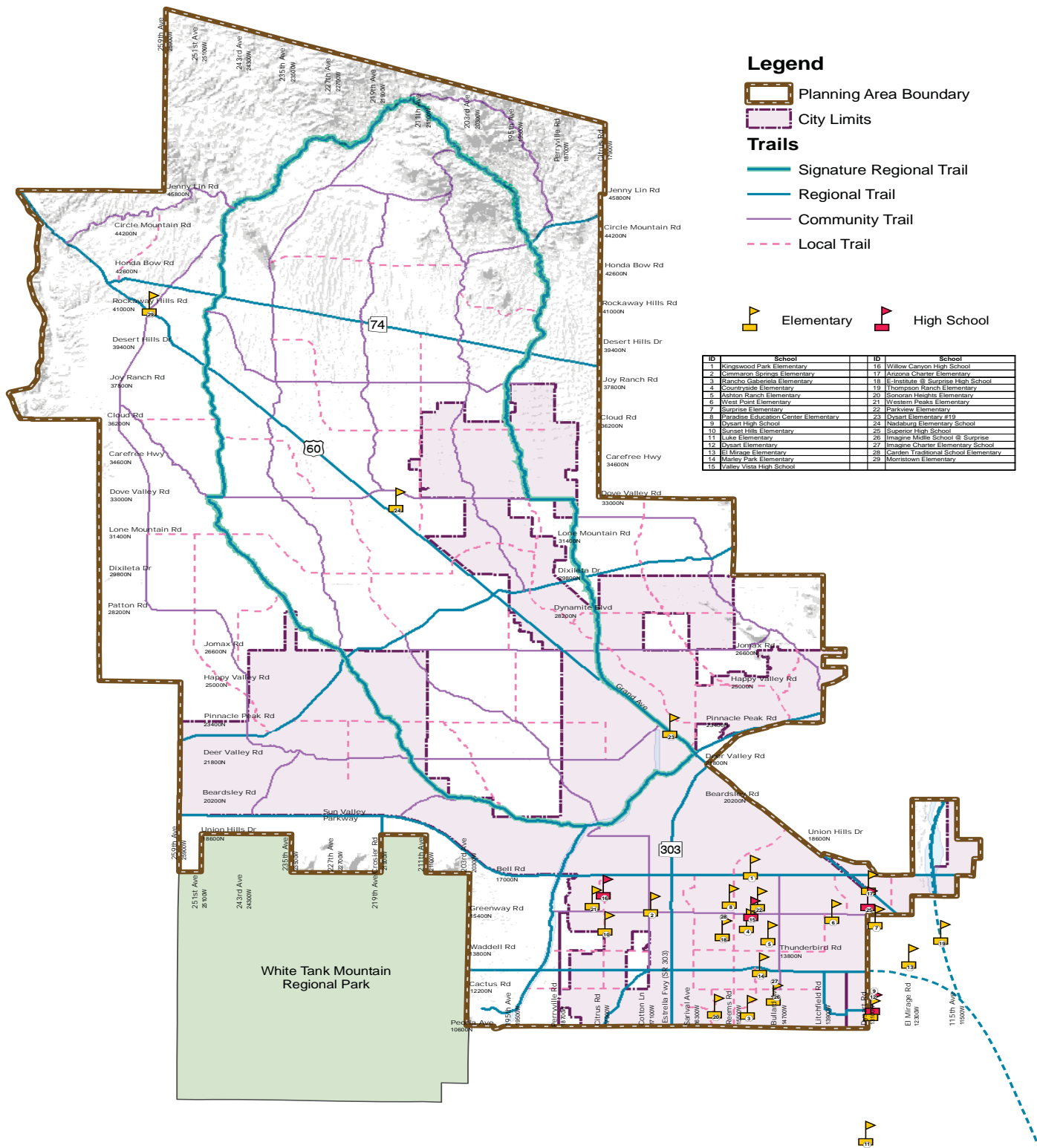
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**1.1
Existing Parks and
Recreation Facilities
Inventory**

Parks less than 5-acres

Section 10 Park

1 acre including: Basketball Court; Open Turf Area; Ramada and Barbeque Facilities.

Stonebrook Park

3.2 acres including: Playground; Open Turf Area and Barbeque Facilities.

Three Star Park

1.2 acres including: (2) Basketball Courts (lighted); Playground; Ramada and Barbeque Facilities.

Habitat for Humanity Park

0.5 acres including: Play Equipment and Ramada

Neighborhood Parks

Bicentennial Park

7 acres including: (1) Softball Field (lighted); Basketball Court (lighted); Soccer Field (lighted); Playground; Ramada and Barbeque Facilities.

Gaines Park

5 acres including: Softball Field (lighted); Basketball Court, Playground; Multi-purpose Field; Tot Lot; Horseshoe Pits; Ramada and Barbeque Facilities.

Sierra Montaña Park

13.5 acres including: (1) Multi-purpose Field; (2) Basketball Courts; (3) Sand Volleyball Courts; Playground; Ramada and Barbeque Facilities.

Veramonte

8.5 acres including: Multi-purpose Field; Tot Lot; Ramada and Barbeque Facilities.

Community Parks

Marley Park Community Park

25 acres including: (2) Softball Fields (lighted); Tot Lot; Amphitheater; Water Play Area; Ramadas and Barbeque Facilities.

Surprise Recreation Campus

195 acres including:

- 5-acre lake with $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile pathway along perimeter.
- (4) Basketball courts (lighted).
- (2) Sand Volleyball courts (lighted).
- (2) Tennis courts (lighted).
- Playgrounds, ramadas, barbeques, picnic tables and benches.
- Dog Park with divided sections for small and large dogs, owner and pet drinking fountains, and shade structures.
- Surprise Stadium: 118 acre Spring Training facility for major league baseball's Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals; (12) Baseball fields (6 lighted); 8-acre Multi-purpose field (lighted).
- Dream Catcher Park is a 5-acre multi-use facility (lighted) with stadium seating that will allow for baseball, soccer and football that is geared towards people with disabilities.
- Surprise Tennis and Racquet Facility is a 16 acre facility with (8) 120' X 60' tennis courts, (14) 132' X 66' tennis courts, (3) 140' X 80' tennis courts, (2) Full size indoor Racquetball courts, Table Tennis Room and a clubhouse building.
- Surprise Skate Park (under development)
- Youth Baseball Facility is a 16 acre baseball facility with (3) baseball fields(lighted), restrooms and concessions.



Surprise Farms Community Park

57 acres: (under development)

Asante Park

50 acres: (under development)

Regional Parks

Currently there are no Regional Parks located within the City of Surprise. However, the City does fall within the service areas of two (2) Regional Facilities: these include the White Tanks Mountain Regional Park and Lake Pleasant. The City is proposing that an area in the northwest region of the City's Planning Area be reserved for a facility.

Recreation Centers

Countryside Recreation Center. 15038 N. Parkview Place.

Amenities include: basketball courts (full and half-court), volleyball courts, dance/aerobic studio, and classrooms.

Sierra Montana Recreation Center. 14861 N. Spring Lane.

Amenities include: Multi-purpose room; Dance room; Game room; Performance platform; Study room and Classrooms.

Villanueva Recreation Center. 15660 N. Hollyhock Street.

Amenities include: basketball courts (full and half-court), volleyball courts with seating for spectators.

Surprise Recreation Campus. 15950 N. Bullard Avenue

Amenities include: Surprise Stadium; 12 Baseball Fields (6 Lighted); 8-Acre Multipurpose Field (Lighted)

Municipal Pools

Hollyhock Community Pool. 15808 N. Hollyhock Street.

Amenities include: Zero depth area and water play features; Water Spray Pad with play features; Water Slide; 3-Lane Lap pool.

Surprise Aquatic Center at Surprise Recreation Campus. 15831 N. Bullard Avenue.

Amenities include: Zero depth area and water play features; (2) Slides; Competition Pool; Diving Well; (2) 1-meter Boards.

Libraries

Hollyhock Branch Library. 15844 N. Hollyhock Street.

Surprise Regional Library. 16089 N. Bullard Avenue.

The facility is a 23,000 square foot regional library (part of the Surprise Recreation Campus). The Maricopa County Library District operates the facility. The library has 3,000 square feet of meeting space, adult and children book sections with more than 70,000 books, and a multi-media computer lab.

Cultural Facilities

The Heard Museum. 16126 N. Civic Center Plaza.

The museum offers a gallery of more than 400 works of art as well as a changing exhibition space and classroom spaces for lectures, films and discussions. The museum is privately owned and open to the public.

Section 1.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

1.1 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory



Section 1.0
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1.2
Recreation and Program
Inventory

West Valley Art Museum. 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts.

The museum features fine art in five exhibition galleries, a museum store and café. The museum is privately owned and open to the public.

Recreation and program inventory

The City of Surprise offers a variety of recreation programs broken down into 4 major categories: Special Programs; Sports; Aquatics; and, Special Interest Classes. Due to seasonal constraints however, a complete list of all programs should be obtained from the City's Community and Recreation Services Department and the Recreation Times publication. A list of the City's signature events are listed below.

4th of July Celebration

The 4th of July Celebration is a free family event held at the Surprise Community Park and the Surprise Stadium 8-acre park. The event includes live stage entertainment, roaming entertainment, and fireworks. Families can also participate in the Surprise Pool Party where they can enjoy the firework show from the pool.

Performance in the Park

This is a free event where people can enjoy an evening of live music and entertainment at the Surprise Community Park. Performance in the Park is held 2-3 times per year.

Movie Night at Surprise Stadium

The Surprise Stadium hosts the free event that features a family movie on the Cox Video Board inside the stadium. People can bring their blankets and pillows, stretch out on the grass and enjoy the film.

Surprise Party

This annual tradition takes place the first weekend in December. The event covers 2 days and consists of a wide variety of family oriented activities and live entertainment with something for everyone to enjoy. Friday night festivities include a hot air balloon glow, nighttime skydivers, live music, and the traditional tree lighting ceremony. Saturday's activities include an arts and crafts show, classic car show, interactive games, animal rides, hot air balloon fly out, pictures with Santa Clause, live music and much more.

Fan Fest / Family Fun Run

Fan Fest is a free event that includes Royals and Rangers practice sessions, a baseball card show, interactive games, memorabilia and opportunities for autographs. In conjunction with Fan Fest, the City of Surprise hosts a Family Fun Run. All ages and levels of runners and walkers are encouraged to participate.

College Baseball Tournament

The tournament is an annual 3 day event that features Arizona State University and other universities from around the United States.

Spring Eggstravaganza

An annual free event that includes egg hunts, Mr. & Mrs. Bunny, rides, arts and crafts.

Surprise Days

A free event with Wild West Shows. In addition, there is a Kid Zone with petting zoo, rides and other games.

Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade allows clubs, organizations, groups or residents to participate in the parade for free.



Arizona High School All-Star Game

This event allows athletes to participate in football, volleyball, baseball, and softball. Games are held at the Surprise Stadium and local high schools.

Benchmarking

This assessment includes two types of benchmark analysis. The first is quantitative, and measures the number of facilities and services provided by the City against other jurisdictions, locally and nationally. The second benchmark analysis is qualitative, and compares the type and breadth of the City's recreation programming to other jurisdictions. The service and facility needs, identified through the benchmark analysis, provide the basis for developing the Guiding Principles and Actions in the Master Plan.

The primary purpose of a benchmark analysis is to compare one city against several others for a given selection of data. Benchmark analyses were prepared comparing Surprise against four cities nationwide and to its neighbors in the Valley. The analysis included information gathered from the benchmark survey and a summary of findings. Finally, the benchmarking section includes a summary of national trends identified through the survey and other sources that are applicable to Surprise.

The four national benchmark cities were selected based on population, growth rates, and/or a change in demographics. The cities were Lee's Summit, Missouri; Richardson, Texas; Longmont, Colorado; and, Roseville, California. The specific reasoning for selecting these four cities was: Lee's Summit is near a retirement community; and, Richardson, Longmont, and Roseville are cities that also have a similar high growth rate in young population. All are adjacent to major metropolitan areas.

Table 3: National Community Benchmark Comparisons

	Lee's Summit, MO	Richardson, TX	Longmont, CO	Roseville, CA
Population*	86,357	99,187	81,818	105,940
Number of Parks	30	30	32	23
Total Acres of Parkland	1,471	956	1,872	580
Residents per Acre of Parkland	58.7	103.7	43.7	260.2
Median Age	36.4	35.8	34.0	36.4

*Population data is based on 2005 Census.

Table 4: Neighboring Community Benchmark Comparisons - does not include Regional Parks

	Buckeye, AZ	Peoria, AZ	Goodyear, AZ	Glendale, AZ	**Surprise, AZ
*Population	40,467	145,280	56,818	246,529	108,610
Number of Parks	10	28	9	64	12
Total Acres of Parkland	106	293	79	720	367
Residents per Acre of Parkland	381.8	495.8	719.2	342.4	296
Median Age	30.0	35.2	34.0	30.7	36

*Population data is based on city web site information.

**June 2008, Community Development Department, City of Surprise.

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1.3 Benchmarking

Table 3 National Community Benchmark Comparisons

Table 4 Neighborhood Community Benchmark Comparisons



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**1.4
How this Plan relates
to other Planning
Documents**

How this Plan relates to other Planning Documents

Several regional and local plans and policies were reviewed to provide additional information and insight on recreation standards of adjacent communities. This section includes an overview of relevant parks and recreation master plans, river corridor plans, bicycle plans, and other plans that have been adopted by local or regional entities.

City of Scottsdale Community Services Facilities Master Plan – Parks and Recreation Element

Prepared by: Planners Ink; adopted by City of Scottsdale in 2004

Plan Recommendations and Goals Relevant to the City of Surprise

- When developing new facilities, include spaces for social and cultural exchange where people can sit, talk or walk on a daily basis.
- Create memorable public spaces with flowering gardens, well designed spaces for entertainment and people-watching.
- Protect unique open spaces and archeological and historical sites.
- Create inviting and fulfilling spaces for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and teenagers with their unique needs.
- Include walk-able and jog-able places in and around new facilities.
- Develop partnerships that will bring evolving adventure sport facilities to Scottsdale and surrounding cities including:
 - Rock climbing venues
 - White water kayaking and rafting
 - Mountain bike trails
 - Skateboard and BMX courses/facilities
 - Scuba diving
- Develop facilities and programming for teens, particularly in areas of high youth populations and schools.
- Development of future facilities should be communicated intensively, and in a timely manner with the residents in the immediate service area through a City-staffed interdepartmental site planning team.

City of Peoria Parks, Recreation Open Spaces and Trails Master Plan Update 2006

Prepared by: J2 Design, Coffman Studio, EDAW, adopted by Peoria City Council in 2006.

Plan Recommendations and Goals Relevant to the City of Surprise

- Develop an accessible, comprehensive, integrated, high quality Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces system serving the needs of Peoria residents.
- Develop a safe, functional, and enjoyable park system.
- Develop a comprehensive and diverse recreation program.
- Develop an open space system that is environmentally sensitive and self-sustaining.
- Develop a safe, multi-use and inter-connected trail system throughout the City.
- Develop a Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces system that preserves and enhances cultural resources.
- Appropriately plan the unique recreational resources of the North Planning Area of Peoria through future master planned development.
- Amount of neighborhood parks should equal 1.75 acres per 1,000 persons.
- Amount of community parks should equal 1.50 acres per 1,000 persons.
- Amount of regional parks should equal 3 acres per 1,000 persons.
- Amount of open space should equal 10 acres per 1,000 persons.
- Develop a system of trails that connects major recreational, educational and economic centers throughout the City and adjacent cities.



Section 1.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

1.4 How this Plan relates to other Planning Documents

- Acquire open space.
- Build indoor recreation centers.
- Develop recreational trails.
- Build year-round swimming facilities.
- Develop public golf courses.

City of Peoria Desert Lands Conservation Master Plan and DLCO

Prepared by: BRW, 1999. Ordinance adopted by Peoria City Council in 2004

This plan focuses on the preservation of desert lands for recreation and open space.

Plan Recommendations and Goals Relevant to the City of Surprise

- Maintain the vitality of the unique Sonoran Desert environment by providing high quality passive and active open space areas, while encouraging development that is sustainable and supportive of the environment.
- Provide open space connections among the various areas identified for conservation.
- Encourage staff collaboration on joint development projects with other communities.
- Encourage cluster development to minimize the disturbance of native desert vegetation.
- Maintain appropriate or sufficient buffers that are at least 25 feet wide between areas dominated by human activities and environmentally sensitive areas.

City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Plan

Prepared by: Design Workshop in association with Leon Younger and PROS and ETC Institute, adopted by Glendale City Council, 2002.

This plan was prepared to assist in the operation and management of the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department and to plan for future recreation needs.

Plan Recommendations and Goals Relevant to the City of Surprise

- Provide an equitable distribution of park and recreational amenities that enhance the quality of life in the community.
- Provide opportunities for Glendale residents to participate in the design and planning of parks and facilities.
- Develop a system of linked open space that connects parks and recreational opportunities to neighborhoods, schools, community amenities, and employment centers.
- Develop parklands, open spaces, and facilities that improve the aesthetic appearance of the community and are compatible with the principles of sustainability and conservation of natural resources.
- Provide parks, open space, facilities and services that are safe for participants and City staff.
- Encourage cooperation between the Parks and Recreation Department and other public agencies and private entities as it relates to development, maintenance, and shared-use of recreational facilities and services.
- Provide high quality parks and recreation facilities in a manner that is efficient, cost effective, and adds value to surrounding land uses.
- Increase quantity and quality of open space linkages from neighborhoods to community and regional parks and to metropolitan open space systems.
- Partner with school districts to jointly use fields and courts. This would include the use of indoor facilities.
- Include shaded picnic facilities and playground amenities as a guideline for all parks.
- Develop off leash activity areas for dogs in new and existing parks.
- Develop four multi-dimensional regional community centers that can serve the needs of teens, seniors, and families, to adequately allow access for all residents to use.